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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/541,507

07/08/2005

Takushi Yoshida

P/1250-293

2987

2352 7590 01/24/2011
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EXAMINER

MACARTHUR, SYLVIA

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1716

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

01/24/2011

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/541,507	Applicant(s) YOSHIDA ET AL.	
	Examiner Sylvia R. MacArthur	Art Unit 1716	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11/22/2010.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 40-78 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 51-56 and 68-78 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 40-50 and 57-67 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 08 July 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

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DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 11/22/2010 has been entered.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments filed 11/22/2010 have been fully considered but are moot in view of the new grounds of rejection recited below.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 40-47 and 57-64 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takashi et al (JP 2003-005826) and Katsui et al (US 6,772,045)

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Takashi et al teaches a system and method for management wherein the apparatus comprises a network having a coupling (plant 2 is provided with a AGC 4 and LAN 9) between a substrate processing apparatus (processors M1-Mn) discharging solution onto a rotation substrate via spin chuck 40, a computer 7 comprises a collection part (data box, see abstract) wherein data such a temperature and humidity (both of which are interpreted as the control elements) are monitored (via sensor 44) and collected, see also [0036 and 0037] wherein other control elements (such as rotation speed) are recited. The term non-conformity and automated diagnosis program found through the prior art is interpreted as the abnormality see also the claims section. Note humidity is interpreted as a measure of concentration. Takahashi teaches that an abnormality is detected based of data from temperature or humidity. Takahashi et al fails to teach the combined effect of temperature and humidity will signal an abnormality in the overall process.

Katsui et al teaches a system for determining dry cleaning timing (a process control element) based on the combination of the processing parameters (process control elements) data to determine the status of the process. The prior art of Katsui shows that it is well known technology to analyze the totality of the data to determine the status of the process and the severity of the abnormality(that is the difference between the actual measured process control element and the reference of expected value) In col. 5 lines 20-33, col. 6 24-33. col. 6 lines 43-col. 7 line 45.Thus, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the claimed invention to use the prior art of Katsui et al suggest using the combined effect of the data collected in the method of Takahashi et al.

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The discussion of the supply pipe in [0027] in Takahashi et al reads on the discharge step.

Note the specific liquid discharged is a matter of an intended use as the nozzles and supply pipes of the prior art are inherently capable of supplying pure water and/or HF and perform cleaning. Furthermore, the type of fluid and process performed does not structurally limit the supply apparatus as claimed. Note also that the sequential order of the processing steps do not further limit the structure of the apparatus as all are controlled by the process controllers (1st , 2nd control sections, and computer) and are inherently capable of performing the steps in the order claimed.

5. Claims 48-50 and 65-67 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takashi et al (JP 2003-005826) in view Katsui et al as applied in claims 40-47 and 57-64 above in further view of Konishi et al (US 6,145,519).

The teachings of Takashi et al as modified by Katsui et al were discussed above. The modification fails to teach a circulation mechanism. Konishi et al teaches a substrate processing unit wherein a substrate is cleaned. Konishi et al teaches a recovery unit to recycle/circulate the treatment solution. Konishi et al teaches both HF and water as treatment fluids see col. 8 line 58 and the abstract. The motivation to provide a circulation system is that recycling/recovery of the treatment is conventional and known to allow for conservation of treatment fluids and save process costs as "fresh", previously unused solution is unnecessary or greatly reduced for subsequent runs. Thus, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the claimed invention to modify the apparatus of Takashi et al as modified by Katsui et al with Konishi et al.

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Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sylvia R. MacArthur whose telephone number is 571-272-1438.

The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th during the hours of 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

7. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Parviz Hassanzadeh can be reached on 571-272-1435. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

8. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

January 18, 2011

/Sylvia R MacArthur/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1716